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**Christmas  
countdown**

Adam Douglas puts antlers on his mother's head during the Stanhope Firefighters Association children's Christmas party on Saturday. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Times

# County council keeps Danielsen as warden

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**  
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Haliburton County council voted to stay its course and continue with its most familiar warden at the helm.

The upper tier council chose to return Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen

as warden for another one-year term. She was elected over Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter.

Danielsen has been elected to the warden's chair for five years, which is a Haliburton County record.

"I fully acknowledge that I've held the position for an unprecedented period of time,"

Danielsen said. "But then again these last few years have truly been unprecedented times."

During her tenure, the county implemented septic inspection programs and passed the Shoreline Preservation Bylaw.

"Both to the greatest extent possible to protect the health of our lakes," she said. "Lakes that form the foundation of our econ-

omy, not to mention our personal health and well-being."

County council completed a service delivery review and have set eyes on a course toward achieving efficiencies and future success, she said. But she acknowledged that

see 'SHE' page 2



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*Season's greetings*



# ‘She listens to us all,’ Fearrey says of Danielsen

from page 1

there is still work to be done.

“We still have to complete the establishment of the much-anticipated police board,” Danielsen said. “We’re also finally reaching completion of the draft short-term rental by-law—another piece of extremely contentious legislation.”

County staff is the most important resource, she said.

“And one that we need to have very careful regard for,” she said.

Algonquin Highlands has its municipal house in order, she said, and that enables her to maintain a steely focus on county issues.

It’s been questioned whether the position of warden should be term-elected or have a sort of turn-taking mechanism to fill the seat.

“Depending on the circumstances, is it not better for council to consider who the best suited candidate is to be at the head of the table rather than simply acquiescing to whose turn it is?” Danielsen said.

“Taking turns isn’t always the right direction. Who you feel is the right candidate for a given time is.”

Danielsen was nominated to continue as warden or another year by Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey and Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton.

At the foundation of his choice of nominee is three important things, Fearrey said. They are job performance, experience, and communication.

He said Danielsen’s performance in the Big Chair over the last year has been more than excellent.

“She attends everything she should attend and even some time things, probably, that she doesn’t really need to but is important to the county,” Fearrey said, and added that she cares just as much about the county as she does her township.

Fearrey has seen over the last 40 years that there have been few communicators as good as Danielsen.

“She listens to us all,” he said. “She doesn’t necessarily agree with us all, but she finds a compromise. That’s what being warden is all about.”

In making his case to be warden, Carter said most people don’t like change, but it’s inevitable. Change is seen in employment,



Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, was returned to the Haliburton County warden’s seat during a special meeting of council Dec. 12. Danielsen said there are many tough decisions ahead for county council, given the difficult economic times faced by each lower tier municipality and the county. /FILE

government, climate, the level of health service, the manner of health care, and in legislation.

“We have a couple of questions,” Carter said. “The questions are how do we adapt to the change and how do we deal with it?”

Rural community councils have a more difficult scratch than colleagues in larger urban centres.

“We don’t have a large industrial or commercial base that serves as a foundation for our revenues,” he said. “Any dollars that we get have to come from the residents of Haliburton County.”

Many of those people are trying to make ends meet with fixed incomes, seasonal work, or with the traditionally lower wages from the service industry.

“We have to make sure that every dollar we get from those people is spent wisely and is spent correctly,” he said.

He said there are wonderful people in the county, volunteers and staff. They have to be utilized as best as possible.

“We have to work better together,” Carter said. “We have to work better together with other communities across Ontario, particularly in eastern Ontario. And we have to work together better here in Haliburton County. We have to try to spend the money as wisely as we can.”

“Those are the areas of most importance to me. Those are the areas I would like to focus on.”

Carter was nominated by Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux and Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell.

Schell said she’s worked with Carter for five years and he’s proven his dedication to his role in that time.

She said Danielsen has done a fine job as warden, but she chose to nominate Carter “to keep with the original intent of the warden’s position in that it be shared amongst the four municipalities during the term of council by all interested candidates.”

Though she nominated Carter, Schell acknowledged that the county will be in good hands for the next year regardless of the contest’s outcome.

Dailloux, who serves as Danielsen’s deputy mayor but put Carter’s name in the hat for warden, declined to comment about her choice of nominee.



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*This is the last  
Minden Times of the  
year. The next  
paper will be out  
Wed., Jan. 10, 2024.  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!*



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The offices of the Haliburton Echo and  
Minden Times will be closed from  
Monday, December 25 to January 2





# ‘Trying something new’; County CAO ready to make his mark

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

Gary Dyke is no stranger to local politics, and he’s ready to wade into the (occasionally murky) waters of Haliburton County upper tier governance as their new CAO.

“I’ve never worked at this level before,” he said, “but I know things are done differently in each municipality.”

Dyke brings to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience; from being the city manager for Cambridge, the CAO for the City of Quinte West, and the president for the AMO board of directors to name a few; adding up to over 30 years of experience in the field.

“The best part about these types of jobs is seeing the stuff that you’ve done take shape in the community,” he said. “How do we create something that benefits all the local municipalities?”

Dyke originally hails from North Bay, before leaving to attend planning school at the University of Waterloo. “But I didn’t like being a planner,” he laughed. “I was always the one who wanted to see plans come to action.”

This initiative prompted him to switch into the economic development field, where he felt he could actually build and develop programs that would directly benefit municipalities, and all the taxpayers within them.

This is why Dyke has stepped into the role as CAO with the county with a new vision; to roll out a tactile strategic plan, and start getting the four lower-tier municipalities working hand in hand.

While he recognizes that he’s stepped into the role on the edge of a budget season, he plans on both supporting budget discussions, whilst actively learning from them about the priorities of the county. “You have to hear the voice of the people when working on that budget,” he said. “We need to create a narrative that speaks clearly to all the people. What would that look like? I want to make it accessible for everyone.”

When asked about amalgamation between the upper and lower tiers of government, Dyke referenced his own experiences. “Amalgamation is not the first thing I would jump to,” he said. “I think there’s lots of ways we can work together, and take more of a horizontal approach rather than a vertical one.”

He believes that there is value in multiple tiers; each one bringing something different to the table, and supporting the work they can do together. While he was aware that oftentimes communications can be skewed and the lines of shared services can be blurred, Dyke hopes that by introducing a

formal strategic plan, the workload will be better balanced.

“I don’t just want it to be another binder that sits on the shelf,” he said in reference to the plan he intends to develop and implement over 2024. “I want a tangible, integrated work plan, in furtherance of an evolving goal.”

Dyke plans on pulling from his 30 years of experience to collaborate with County Council and put into practice some new initiatives for the community. “We’re trying something new,” he said, in reference to a holistic, collaborative approach to upper tier governance. “And staff and council have been so great to work with so far. I am looking forward to it.”

**Gary Dyke has stepped into the role of CAO for the County of Haliburton, and brings with him years of experience in municipal work.**  
/Photo submitted



## Happy Howlidays

The Haliburton County Huskies visited Archie Stouffer Elementary School to help out with gift wrapping at their annual holiday market, where kids brought in gifts from home for others to purchase and give to loved ones. For the second year in a row, the Huskies were brought in as the official gift wrappers. /Photo submitted

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#### Holiday Fire Safety Tips:

- Holiday baking with children this holiday season? Make sure to keep an eye on those little bakers and remember to never leave the oven unattended. Safety first, cookies second!
- Baby, it's cold outside! Staying warm this Winter Solstice means practicing fire safety. Space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces are all great ideas until an accident happens. Keep at least one metre (3 feet) distance between your heat source and combustibles, like paper and fabrics.

### WASTE DISPOSAL

#### New Waste Disposal Site Hours

A reminder that new waste disposal site hours start January 1, 2024. For a list of new hours, please ask your Site Attendant for a handout at your next visit to one of our waste disposal sites. You can also visit our website at [mindenhills.ca](http://mindenhills.ca) or contact staff at 705-286-3144 ext. 572.

**Holiday Hours** - All Minden Hills waste disposal sites are closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Waste disposal sites will operate on their regular winter hours all other days. Happy Holidays!

### VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipality Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

January 11, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting  
January 25, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or a live-stream link available on the Township CivicWeb Portal at [mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx](http://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our CivicWeb Portal at [mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx](http://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx). Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

### SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Everyone must do their part to get around safely in the winter. When a winter storm is expected, all municipalities have a plan. Drivers need to have their own plan, which includes leaving earlier and planning a route. It is important to delay unnecessary travel during significant storms to give plows time to do their jobs. It's also safer for drivers.

### OFFICE CLOSURE

*Season's Greetings*

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WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE IN MINDEN HILLS A VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

#### MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

##### Administration Office

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
CLOSED Dec 23rd to Jan 1st

##### Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery

CLOSED Dec 25th to Jan 1st

##### Landfills

All Sites are CLOSED Dec 25th & Jan 1st

##### SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre

Dec 24th CLOSED at 11a.m.  
CLOSED Dec 25th, 26th & Jan 1st  
Dec 27th Facilities will be open, Office CLOSED

##### Public Works Department Administration Office

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
CLOSED Dec 23rd to Jan 1st

##### Fire Department Administration Office

Dec 18th to Dec 22nd 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
CLOSED Dec 23rd to Jan 1st

Regular hours resume Jan 2, 2024



Santa comes to Stanhope

Longtime Stanhope volunteer Julie Chadwick organizes gifts just before the start of the Stanhope Firefighters Association children’s Christmas party on Dec. 16. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Times*



Doug Haywood helps his granddaughter, Abbey, colour during the Stanhope Firefighters Association children’s Christmas party.



Octavian Talluri, 4, watches The Barry O Kidshow performance just before the arrival of Santa Claus on Saturday.



Oliver Simon tries on an oxygen tank while Stanhope firefighter Kevin Alcock explains to the group of kids the important equipment firefighters use for putting out blazes.



Oliver Simon jumps into the driver’s seat of a pumper truck during the Stanhope Firefighters Association children’s Christmas party.



The BarryO Kidshow keeps children entertained during the Stanhope Firefighters Association children’s Christmas party on Saturday.



# Boshkung closes Carnarvon location

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

When one door closes, another one opens.

After the brewery partnered with Truss Foodworks back in the fall; announcing new owners, new menus, and new focuses, the Boshkung team has had some difficult decisions to make.

The most recent was the announcement of the closure of their Carnarvon location; set up in the lower level of Rhubarb Restaurant. "We are going to be focusing more on our Minden and Haliburton Forest locations, and really work at building our food and drink programs there," said Mathew Renda, the owner of Boshkung Brewing.

The brand was originally developed by Rhubarb just over nine years ago, and ownership has changed hands a series of times over the years before Renda and co-owner Mike Rae of Truss stepped on the scene.

"The Lakeside location was home of beloved flagship beers that have become synonymous with the Boshkung Brewing Co. brand," reads the official closure statement on social media. "The owners acknowledge the significance of this establishment and express their heartfelt thanks to Rhubarb Restaurant."

When asked about the closure of Boshkung, Terri Matthews-Carl of Rhubarb took some time to reflect on the past nine years. "We really wish them continued success in Haliburton County, and we look forward to seeing the brand grow," she said. "Since we sold the brewery three years ago, we felt it

was time to move on and expand the space with our own offerings, which will continue to include beer-to-go from many craft and specialty breweries."

Boshkung currently brews their beer at the Minden location, and the Carnarvon location pivoted over recent years to transform into a tasting room. Since forming a partnership with Truss, the brand continued to expand at Haliburton Forest, and their seasonal location, Smoke on the Water, located at Kennis Lake Marina; locations which they will continue to grow and develop. "The commitment to delivering exceptional craft beverages and a memorable dining experience remains unwavering," they said.

## Awards season

In the midst of new ownership and different locations, Boshkung has once again made their mark at the Ontario Brewing Awards, earning silver for their well-known Kungaroo IPA. This is the third year the beer has been recognized at the awards. "It's just a really, really great beer," said Renda. "In the world of hazy and hoppy IPA's, this is a classic."

Renda noted that the recipe has not changed for the beer itself; it merely continues to stand out, and continues to be Boshkung's best selling IPA. Kungaroo IPA is available in LCBOs and at the Boshkung locations for purchase.

**Boshkung's Kungaroo IPA recently won silver at the Ontario Brewing Awards. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff**



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## Hearts and bones

**Y**OU'RE NOT really supposed to write about seasonal things in an editorial. It's usually supposed to be some sort of stance. And in writing editorials, it turns out that I have no shortage of opinions.

With some, readers agree with me. Others, I hear at length about how folks think I am wrong. I welcome feedback in all forms, because I appreciate the conversations.

The editorial is generally the last item we work on for the paper. After we've read, at length, the content, the stories, the contributions. I watch what gets folks fired up throughout the week; a little notebook in my purse with the spine heavily cracked, jotting down ideas for what to write next based on the calm or the chaos of the community.

I sometimes wish I could travel back in time, and tell 12-year-old Emily that she has a job where she reads every day. That kid who would get lost in books, who would create characters and comics and convictions. Her heart wasn't on her sleeve; it was nestled within the pages of a book.

Sometimes we have columns in the paper with heart, but really, the nature of a newspaper is to be the bones of a community. The bits and pieces that build the body of a town, and hold it upright. Council meetings, AGMs, financial reports, strategic plans. There is weight to each and every one of these news items.

They create the community we know and love, but they are just the bones.

So instead of snapping bones this week, I took a step back, and wanted to take a look at the heart of the newspaper. I reflected on the month of December, and how I have written about families who have received miracles, fundraisers that have surpassed their goals, and new businesses that are wading into the world of Minden.

The heart and soul of a community

are the pieces that make it tick. The faces we see at the post office, the sounds we hear at holiday concerts, the way the lights sparkle downtown when the sun dips its head just after 4 p.m.

There's so much more to a community than its bones. And so often, we forget that.

As 2023 winds down, I look back on a year of editorials. We will all be reminded in the new year when the *Times* runs its annual Year in Review, but as I personally sit with a cup of tea in my little office, I think about the big ticket items I tackled. Protests, counter-protests, heightened need for food banks, deaths of local friends and relatives, questionable council decisions, and of course, an ER closure.

I bet 12-year-old Emily wasn't planning on reading all that.

In this role, you can easily get bogged down by the bones. The hurt. The sadness. It happens.

But this time of year, more than any other time, I find it's easier to step back and see the world through the eyes of a 12-year-old.

To look beyond the hurt, and see the heroes, beyond the sadness, and see the sparkles, beyond the bones, and see the heart.

And while I am not always supposed to write about seasonal items, I felt like this was worth sharing. To get it out into the world that with every bad, there is good. With every sting, there is a song. With every swing of the pendulum, it always finds its way back.

Thank you, to our readers, for following along on our journey this year. For supporting our paper, for asking those questions, for proving that print is indeed not dead, and for reminding us to take a step back, and look at life through the lens of a 12-year-old.

Because while we need our bones to stand, our heart is what keeps us alive.



**EMILY STONEHOUSE**  
Editor

## Kwarky



*"Rudolph! Get down from there!"*

## How to choose a Christmas tree

**A** LOT HAS been written on the joy and traditions of going out into the woods and cutting down your very own Christmas tree. People wax eloquently about choosing a tree that is the right height with the ideal density and fullness. They hope to find a tree that smells wonderful and is perfect for decorating. They are looking for a glorious thing that will cradle garlands of tinsel and hold a majestic silver star high atop its tip.

That's all well and good but as an outdoors enthusiast, I look at these things a little differently.

The tree I have in mind – my ideal one – is a little more lopsided and a whole lot sparser. It's perhaps 56 feet tall and maybe 3 feet around the trunk. Heck, it's not even an evergreen.

But I would be overjoyed to cut it down and bring its birdshot peppered branches into our living room.

Some might suggest that this is merely because that tree keeps obstructing my upland hunting shot opportunities. They might even tell you that, if those local birds did not always flush so that this tree stands between their flight path and my shotguns muzzle, I would have no interest in cutting it down and using it as a Christmas tree at all.

And they would not be wrong.

Look, I love trees as much as the next person. But there are many, many trees that do not love us anglers and hunters back.

Regardless, Jenn pointed out that the aforementioned poplar is a bit big for our living room and not very Christmassy either. And those are fair points, I guess.

That is why I also asked her to consider an extremely disagreeable willow that

overhangs my favourite brook trout stream. This tree is definitely not too big, and it even comes pre-decorated with many of my hand-tied flies.

"If another fly angler hasn't made that willow their Christmas tree, can I go cut it down?" I begged.

She said no.

Nor could I convince her that we should make a Christmas tree out of the hawthorn that keeps stealing my hats and tearing my hunting coats either. And she didn't approve of me bringing home that blown down spruce, which that big buck

that scared the crap out of me sprung out from behind. According to Jenn, it's "too rotten and fungusy."

She also won't consider the old hemlock where that red squirrel lives – you know, the blabbermouth that kept scolding me every turkey season, any time a big gobbler starts its approach.

And when I tried to sell her on the ash tree I placed my

tree stand in – the one that waved like a metronome when a hard wind blew – she showed very little interest too. Evidently, she doesn't want to rake leaves in the living room over the Christmas holidays.

It seems to me that she's stuck on getting a standing evergreen, preferably spruce, that is 5 feet tall, fragrant, and full as can be – no matter how unreasonable that sounds. Of course, that is fine because she likes traditional Christmas trees and is not a hunter or angler. And, as such, she has no reason to harbour grudges against any tree.

There's not a lot more to say, except perhaps, Merry Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Grouse. I hope to see you next year.



**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35



## IN OTHER WORDS

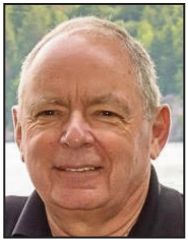
Columns and Letters to the Editor

# O Night Divine

(I have written and told this story many times. Christmas would not be Christmas without telling it again.)

FRESH FALLEN snow protested beneath my gumboots breaking trail down the unploughed lane. Dry, sharp squeaks, not unlike the cries of cheap chalk scrapped against too clean a blackboard. Skuur-eek, skuur-eek.

The boots ignored the sounds. They moved on, ribbed rubber bottoms and laced high leather tops creating a meandering wake in the ankle-deep snow. To each side of the trail, drifted snow leaned tiredly against the backsides of the bungalows, dropped there to rest by an impatient Christmas Eve blizzard just passed through.



**JIM POLING SR.**  
From Shaman's Rock

Faint strains of music joined the squeaking as I approached our back fence. I stopped to hear the music more clearly, now identifiable as singing voices escaping through an open window. I shuffled forward and listened to the notes float out crisply and clearly, then mingle with smoke rising from the chimneys. Notes and smoke rose together into an icy midnight sky illuminated by frost crystals set shimmering by thousands of stars, and the frosty moon the Chippewas called Minidoo Geezis, the little spirit moon of early winter.

I held my breath to hear better and determined that the music was the Christmas carol *O Holy Night*, and that the notes came from the window in my grandmother's room. It was open to the cold because most people smoked cigarettes back then, and at gatherings cracked a window to clear the air. They sang the first verse, and when they reached the sixth line, the other voices ceased and one voice carried on alone:

"Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O Niiii . . . iight Diii... vine! ..." That's the part where the notes rise higher and higher until the singer reaches an awesome pitch.

The solo voice belonged to my grandmother, Louise LaFrance, and I knew she hit that high note while sitting on the edge of the bed that was her prison. She was crippled with limb-twisting rheumatoid arthritis and suffered searing pain and the humiliation of being bedridden, a humiliation that included needing a bedpan to relieve herself and having her son-in-law lift her into the bathtub.

The others stopped singing to listen to her. Each time she hit the high notes at the words "O Night Divine," a shiver danced on my spine.

When she finished singing *O Holy Night*, the other voices started up again, this time with *Silent Night* and other favourite carols. I went into the house and found Christmas Eve celebrants - my mom, dad and some neighbours - crowded into the 10-foot by 10-foot bedroom that was my grandmother's world. They sang long into the night, mostly in French because the neighbours were the Gauthiers who seldom spoke English to my grandmother and mother.

The crippling arthritis had attacked my grandmother not long after my birth sixteen years before. It advanced quickly, twisting her fingers like pretzels, then deforming her ankles and knees. You could see the pain in her eyes and from my bedroom I could hear her moaning in restless sleep, sometimes calling out for relief.

She took up smoking to ease the pain. Late into the night I would hear her stir, then listen for the scrape of a wooden match against the side of a box of Redbird matches.

Sometimes I would get up and go to her door and see the red tip of the cigarette glow brightly as she inhaled and I would go in and we would talk in the smoky darkness. Mostly the talk was about growing up and sorting through the conflicts between a teenager and his parents.

After the singing ended that night, my mother served tourtière, which I slathered with mustard. Then we gathered at the tree and opened our gifts.

I have long forgotten what gift I got that Christmas. It doesn't matter. My real gift was an understanding of how that frail, twisted body came to produce such sweet but powerful notes.

I realized that those high notes were not solely the products of the lungs. They were driven by something stronger than mere flesh.

They came from an unbreakable spirit, and a relentless will to overcome.

# The three factors eroding our economy

There's been a lot of talk lately that Canada is heading into a recession.

Last week, Statistics Canada reported that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) dropped more than expected. Business investment and exports also fell, while consumer spending was flat.

A number of other signs are all pointing to an economic slowdown or contraction, which is remarkable when you consider that the U.S., our largest trading partner, is experiencing robust growth, and when you also consider that the government is pumping record amounts of fiscal stimulus into the economy.

With all the tens of billions Ottawa is flooding into the economy, you'd think our economy would be booming instead of looking down the barrel of a recession.

For me, the question is not so much: are we heading into a recession? The question we should be asking is: why is our economy so feeble?

And I believe the answer to that question is that there are three key areas wreaking havoc on our economy, and until we deal with these three contributing factors, our economy will continue to decline year after year.

The first of these three factors is debt.

The fall economic statement announced a few weeks ago showed that the government is on track to spend \$20 billion more than it had initially indicated, and that the interest on the debt has more than doubled compared to only three years ago and will top a staggering \$60 billion five years from now. That's more than what we currently spend on health care today.

The second factor pummeling our economy is the out-of-control growth in government overhead. When I opened my own small tool and die business in the late 1950s, government spending as a percentage of National GDP was around 16 per cent. Canada's economy was robust and living standards were rising. Today, however, government spending as a percentage of National GDP is approximately 44 per cent, living standards are falling, our

economy is anemic, and our middle class is being slowly eroded.

The most detrimental aspect of our ballooning bureaucracy is the stifling effect it has on business by tying up companies with red tape and obstacles that make it increasingly harder to do business in this country.

The third and final factor that's hobbling the Canadian economy is our complicated tax system. It benefits the rich and special

interests and is slanted in favour of financial transactions and wealth transfer instead of investments in the real economy, which is tied to manufacturing products, growing food and extracting natural resources.

But an Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities would help us address these three structural problems holding our economy back.

The Charter contains the following three key responsibilities that would ensure our country is governed by sound economic principles:

Reduce our national debt by 5 per cent per year for 20 years so that we will be debt-free within two decades

Shrink our swollen bureaucracy by reducing government overhead by 5 percent per year over the next decade

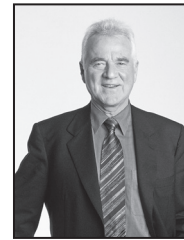
Simplify our tax system by making it black-and-white, clear-cut and fair, with no more loopholes and deductions for the rich and special interests

Not only would these three actions get Canada back on a solid economic footing, they would make our country one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

To learn more about the economic charter and how it could help restore economic growth and prosperity, email me at [info@economiccharter.ca](mailto:info@economiccharter.ca). Or to learn more about the economic charter, please visit: [www.economiccharter.ca](http://www.economiccharter.ca).

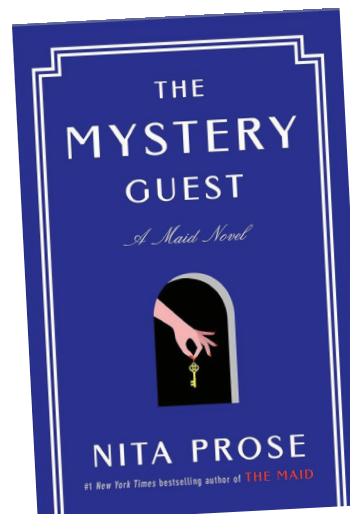
*Author Bio*

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. [fstronachlpc@gmail.com](mailto:fstronachlpc@gmail.com)



**FRANK STRONACH**  
Principles

## HCPL's Book of the Week



Molly Gray has risen through the ranks of the glorious five-star Regency Grand Hotel to become the esteemed Head Maid. But just as her life reaches a pinnacle state of perfection, her world is turned upside down when J.D. Grimthorpe, the world-renowned mystery author, drops dead - very dead - on the hotel's tea room floor.

As the case threatens the hotel's pristine reputation, Molly knows she alone holds the key to unlocking the killer's identity. But that key is buried deep in her past - because long ago, she knew J.D. Grimthorpe. Molly begins to comb her memory for clues, revisiting her childhood and the mysterious Grimthorpe mansion where she and her dearly departed Gran once worked side by side. With the entire hotel under investigation, Molly must solve the mystery post-haste. If there's one thing Molly knows for sure, it's that dirty secrets don't stay buried forever...

*The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.



## Minden Memories



The Monarchs Hockey team pose during their 1948-1949 season. The Monarchs here included Jim and Bobby Dawson, Harry Cowen, Lance Easton, Max Jackson, and more. /Submitted by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

## letters to the editor

# Minden more progressive

To the Editor,

Thank you for your excellent Editorial of Dec. 6 in *The Minden Times*, “Know Better, Do Better”.

As someone who lives on the outskirts of Minden, has raised both of my sons here, & worked the majority of my life in Haliburton County, I feel deeply connected to both communities. If Sam Slick Park was located within Minden Hills, instead of Haliburton, the outcome regarding the proposed re-naming & re-dedicating of this wee parkette across from the high school, would likely have been very different. Our present Minden Hills council, with Mayor Bob Carter at the helm, seems to be a more progressive council than the one in Dysart. Our council would have listened to mem-

bers of the Cultural Resources Committee and the students of the Social Justice and Equity class of the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and then done the right thing. Although the following quote by the fictional character Sam Slick, from author T.C. Haliburton’s book, *The Clockmaker*, was intended to be satire: “A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree/ the more you lick ‘em, the better they be”, there is nothing satirical about the promotion of violence against women (or dogs!). And these are definitely not values which represent our community. As your editorial said, “We know better, so it’s time to do better.”

Respectfully submitted.

Joan Grant,  
Minden Hills

# Confused by editorials

To the Editor,

I read with some confusion the articles regarding “Sam Slick Park” and the concepts I guess about political correctness.

There is no doubt that the caricature depictions of the attitude of Sam Slick towards Black people are somewhat rude and possibly construed as demeaning. However although the Sam Slick character was created by T.C. Haliburton, the caricatures were not. They were created some thirty years after the publication of the book. T.C. Haliburton was considered a literary humourist in his time of writing. It was the tongue in cheek comments on the society of the time.

Are we to ban all reference to Sam Slick because of a caricature created by someone else years after the publication of the work?

Should Shakespeare’s works that end in tragic

suicide be banned for “promoting” such activity? Should Greek tragedies be put on literary hold because of prejudice to peoples? Should any reference to the “Shaw” festival be eliminated because of the attitudes of G.B. Shaw that came out in his writings? Were they his thoughts or was he reflecting the attitude of society of the time?

You cannot rewrite history by inserting it into your so called “principles” of today.

The park is a park. If it offends you don’t use it.

But really this controversy is as Shakespeare said “Much ado about nothing” or in modern song “smoking cigarettes and watching Captain Kangaroo oh don’t tell me I have nothing to do.”

Don’t get slickered by modern Sam Slicks.

David Bishop  
Haliburton

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### TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.  
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level  
Admission: Yearly membership of \$59  
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

### Tickets Available for the 2024 Cash Calendar

When: Now until sold out  
Where: Multiple Locations- See Description  
The Haliburton and District Lions Club is now selling tickets for their 2024 Super Cash Calendar. Three draws happen the second Monday of every month from January 8th to October 14th 2024. Visit [www.haliburtonlions.com](http://www.haliburtonlions.com) for a list of ticket locations and for more information.

### Contract Bridge

When: Every Tuesday, 9am - 12pm  
Where: Minden United Church basement, 21 Newcastle Street  
Our weekly contract bridge has resumed. New members welcome. All levels of skill welcomed.

### Trappers Workshop

When: Sunday January 14, 9am- 3pm  
Where: Lloyd Watson Community Centre, Wilberforce  
Join the Minden District Fur Harvesters and numerous vendors for displays, demonstrations, competitions and door prizes throughout the day! Admission by donation. Lunch available. Food will also be collected for the local foodbank.. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further info please contact Ted at 705-448-2877.

### Minden Legion Branch 636

**Lunch - Monday to Friday**  
**Monday:** Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Tuesday:** Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.  
**Thursday:** Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.  
**Every other Friday:** Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.  
**Friday Fish & Chips & Wings.** Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.  
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## White Christmas?

It is predicted that winter in Minden will be a little warmer this year, with cold temperatures not hitting until the new year. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



# What if Christmas were a potlatch?

IN 1883, the government made potlatches, the foundational ceremony of the Haida people in the Pacific Northwest, illegal: in 1951, they deleted (but didn't repeal) this law. All levels of governments at the time were busy restricting all kinds of ceremonial traditions in order to clear the path for Indigenous people to become 'civilized': out with the old to make way for the new.

It strikes me as hugely ironic that the society that criminalized potlatches has an on-going love affair with Christmas, the papa of all potlatches, and makes every attempt to introject gift-giving into every other possible holiday event. Might Christmas threaten our capacity to become/be Christians as potlatches were seen to do?

I'm not an expert on potlatches or Christmas celebrations, but I have some thoughts. Potlatches were called by a host to as large a social network as he had access to, and to his gathered guests he gave gifts. It was clearly a mechanism for asserting or re-asserting social status, a demonstration of material wealth, surplus that he could do without. Sort of like gift-giving at Christmas. And, my on-line sources say, there was an expectation of reciprocity. As there is at Christmas – we have gift exchanges, which tend to involve much angst about the relative value of the gifts exchanged. At potlatches, the expectation was that guests be graceful receivers. This is also our expectation if gifts are not exchanged: if I give and you receive, you reciprocate with appropriate gratitude, and in so doing, you acknowledge my social status relative to you. If you refuse my gift, you refuse my assertion of social – let's say it – superiority.

This gets us to considering whether hierarchy is necessary as an element of community. I think it is. If we are all leaders and no one is following, there is mayhem. The issue is the nature of leadership. Whether the sharing of material wealth is a redistribution of wealth for the common good, or merely an assertion of superiority.

But now I hark back to the Debt Jubilee that I mentioned last column, where a new leader celebrated his accession to power by wiping the debt slate clean, thereby freeing his subjects from other people's holds on them. It occurs to me that this giving of gifts operates like a potlatch in that it is indeed an assertion of power, but it has the added advantage, for the 'host', that it's not debt to himself that he's forgiving. It's not his money he's giving away. What he's doing is punishing those who hold credit, who use their money to assert their power over others. Which is pretty much what the government did when it made potlatches illegal. It replaced one way of establishing hierarchy in a person-to-person community with making the entire community subsidiary to an external, impersonal 'person', using other than its own money to implement the transfer.

But Christmas, like potlatches, is about more than the giving and receiving of gifts; they are ceremony that creates community. Indigenous people use the word 'ceremony' frequently to reference activities by which they re/engage with their culture. I am also no expert on Indigenous ceremony, but those I've been a part of, and from what I glean about others, the focus is on connecting the physical and spiritual aspects of the moment, creating community among the gathered. It clarifies or affirms their identity and focuses them on their shared business at that time and place.

Does Christmas – or whatever the shape of your cultural celebration of this celestial season – do this for you and your community? The check list would be: a) physical plus spiritual components included and integrated with each other, b) creating community by acknowledging the contribution of each, their place in the pecking order, what they give and what they receive, c) a recognition and probably articulation of what is shared at the moment that binds them together.

It is interesting is that reciprocity, a balance of giving and receiving, is inherent in each of those elements. Ceremony

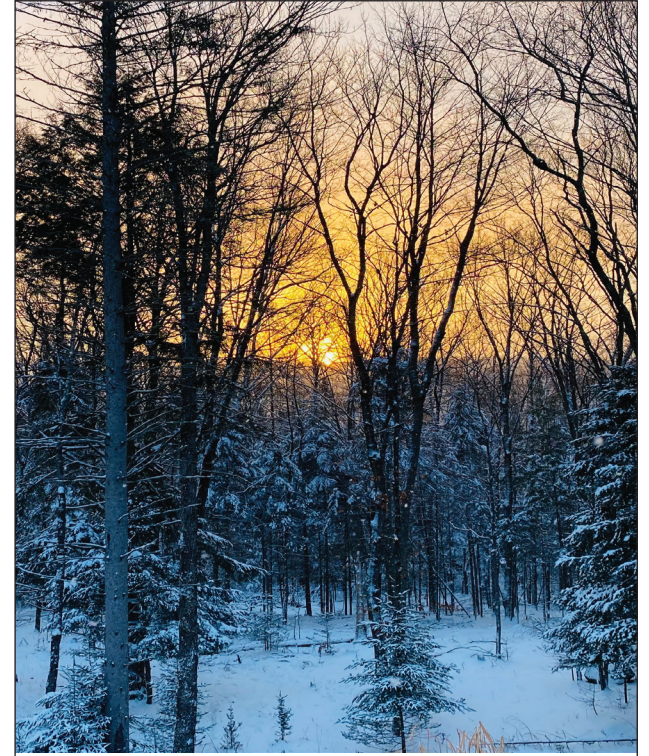
is meant to be mindful. That can be very difficult to achieve or sustain in our over-busy world that is focused on buy buy buy, as if money can address every issue. It can't: remember Midas, whose insatiable love of gold turned an embrace of his beloved granddaughter into a lifeless, loveless hunk of metal.

So: the commercialized Christmas we are encouraged to practice, or a borrowed version of potlatches: what'll it be for you this year?



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# ARC receives OTF grants to fund facility advancements

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**  
*Times Staff*

Abbey Retreat Centre (ARC) has received \$103,200 in Capital grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to fund a new heat unit and other improvements to the facility. The grants were celebrated on Friday, Dec. 15 at ARC by staff, board members, OTF members, and Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott.

“The new equipment has significantly and positively impacted the experiences of people living with cancer that have come here,” said ARC executive director Barb Smith-Morrison. “These enhancements have also been a gift to us as staff and to all of our volunteers as we create the safe and loving and healing community together.”

ARC offers in-person retreats in Algonquin Highlands and online programs for those facing a cancer diagnosis, free of charge to participants.

“Although there are no fees associated with participating in one of our retreats or online gatherings, it takes a generous and caring community to financially support our retreats and online programs,” says an ARC statement.

OTF, an agency of the government of Ontario, provides grants to social service organizations.

Scott congratulated ARC for all of their success with their retreat programs.

“The Abbey Retreat Centre is a special spot, and you can feel the mood and the calming force that’s here and all of the great work that you’ve been doing for many years now,” Scott said. “The two grants are all to help continue to have a vibrant and up to date place in order for survivors, families, and people with cancer to have that lovely tranquil experience.”

Smith-Morrison shared the testament of an attendee of a retreat from this past summer to explain the important work of the centre.

“I can’t say enough about the wonderful retreat facility



Barb Smith-Morrison, Abbey Retreat Centre executive director, announces two Capital grants given to ARC by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott congratulates Abbey Retreat Centre on their Capital grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation on Friday, Dec. 15.

nestled in the natural beauty of the Haliburton Highlands. I can’t say enough about the entire staff, who expertly guided us through a wide range of experiences such as yoga, expressive arts, connecting in nature, drumming. And then there was the time spent exploring the challenges and successes of our cancer journeys. The retreat left me feeling recharged, and I wish it could be a priority whenever anyone might be on their cancer journey,” read the testament.

She highlighted the warmth of the room, and said everyone was toasty thanks to the OTF grant and the purchase of a new heating system.

“Your support changes the lives of people living with cancer. Both those living with a diagnosis and their caregivers. Events like this allow us to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. These kinds of projects also build community,” Smith-Morrison said.

## HHSS RED HAWKS

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The HHSS Scholarship Committee would like to thank **Our Amazing Donors** for their support of this program that helps so many students, acknowledging all aspects of school life including academic excellence, citizenship, volunteerism and extracurricular participation.

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*Countless Thanks*





# Moose FM sets new fundraising record

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

It's been 17 years in the works, but it keeps getting better and better.

The annual Moose FM Radiothon was held on Dec. 7 and 8, and was hosted on the air by Rick Lowes. "We spent those two days on the air, asking listeners to call in with donations," Lowes said. "And it was by far the most successful year we've had."

The Radiothon is designed to benefit each of the four food banks in the area; including Minden, Haliburton, Cardiff, and Wilberforce. This was the 17th year that Moose has hosted the fundraiser, and the 16th with Lowes as the host. "It's extremely busy," he said "and I always get anxiety beforehand, but it is truly the most rewarding feeling afterwards."

Lowes shared that the event really captures the true Christmas spirit. "We have people calling in from the high

school, businesses calling in, people coming in off the streets to donate," he said. "Everyone gets involved."

The total raised this year was \$58,374 over the two days, and was split based on need amongst the four food centres.

Lowes noted that all the staff at the station take part in the event as well. "There are so many people working behind the scenes," he said. "And together, we all made it happen."

**Rick Lowes from 93.5 Moose FM hosted their annual holiday Radiothon on Dec. 7 and 8, and through community kindness and generosity, the group raised more money for local food banks than ever before. /file**



Pictured: HCSA President, Neil Vanderstoop (right), thanks Steve Harper, owner of Harper Powersports and Marine, for supporting the acquisition of a new snowmobile to improve safety on HCSA's snowmobile trails.

## HCSA says 'Safety first'

by BRITNEY PAGLIUCA  
Times Staff

On Friday, Dec. 15, the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA), through their own fundraising, purchased a new snowmobile from Minden's Harper Powersports and Marine for the upcoming season.

The 2024 Ski Doo Skandic snowmobile has the capacity to carry two passengers and will be primarily used for urgent trail extractions in case of medical or other emergencies. Additionally, it will be used for trail maintenance and checking the readiness of the trails.

The HCSA is a volunteer run, non-for-profit organization that constructs and maintains 370 kilometers of snowmobiling trails throughout the county, most of which run through very remote areas. To ensure the safety of all users, it is crucial to have dependable equipment. And safety is their top priority.

"The new snowmobile is critical to keeping our people safe," Club President Neil Vanderstoop said. "If the need arises to rescue one of our trail groomer operators or a volunteer, we now have very dependable equipment to do so."

They also plan to use the new snowmobile to launch their

new initiative - the Trail Ambassadors. The Trail Ambassador will be present on the trails to provide assistance, answer questions, promote proper trail usage, and ensure users' safety.

HCSA extends a special thanks to Harper Powersports and Marine for their support in obtaining this new, critical equipment and is looking forward to the upcoming season.



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### COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NOTICE Holiday Office Hours

The County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the Administration Building at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, ON will close on Friday, December 22, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. and will re-open for regular business on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

The County Roads Department has a 24-hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

**We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.**

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Fleming HSA+D's student residence is set to open in January of 2025. /Submitted



Ground was broken at the site of HSA+D's soon to be student residence by Fleming College board chair Don Gillespie, Ontario Minister Jill Dunlop, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott, Fleming College president Maureen Adamson, Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey, and Fleming College Indigenous Knowledge Leader Liz Stone on Friday, Dec. 15.

# HSA+D student residence to open January 2025

by **VIVIAN COLLINGS**  
*Times Staff*

The groundbreaking ceremony for a long-awaited important building at Fleming College's Haliburton School of Art + Design was held on Friday, Dec. 15. Students of the school will be able to live and stay right next door to their classes in just over a year at a new \$16 million residence, the very first for Fleming's Haliburton campus. Two pavilions will be home to 47 beds total divided into one bedroom and two

bedroom units. Some will be accessible. Since the college's opening on College Drive in Haliburton in 2004, students had been left to find housing in town - a difficult feat in a community with limited affordable options. "Access to affordable housing is important for the well-being and success of Ontario's postsecondary students," said Ontario Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop in a press release. "With this new student residence, Fleming College is providing more learners with local

housing options so they can focus on their studies and feel part of their postsecondary community." The residence will be able to be used by full time students in certificate and diploma programs from fall to spring,

and by students taking week or week-end-long programs and workshops in the spring and summer. Fleming College says the residence will open in January 2025 in time for the winter semester.

giftshop

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Recycled Cardboard Ornaments



Beakler Snacks "The Rock" Van Snappington greets visitors during The Turtle Guardians Christmas party on Dec. 16. at the Fish Hatchery. Beakler is a snapping turtle, and dons his festive get-up to encourage others to get in the holiday spirit. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff



**Tinsel and Turtles**  
Emy, a Blanding's turtle, smiles for the camera during the Turtle Guardians holiday gathering.



# Come sail away with Waite and Hagarty

by VIVIAN COLLINGS  
Times Staff

Minden's Johnny Waite and Andrea Hagarty live and breathe adventure.

Last week, the couple shared one of the outcomes of their constant travel bug and transported Telling Our Stories Speaker Series guests to the other side of the world.

They replaced images of snowy pines and frozen lakes with towering palms and sandy beaches of the Philippines.

"We were there for four weeks traveling, had three weeks in the Philippines, two weeks in the Palawan Islands, one week on the 74' Paraw sailboat, and some extra adventures," Waite said.

While revisiting their March 2023 trip for the room full of enthralled listeners, it was clear that one main travel goal is at the root of their adventures: to be responsible and support local communities as much as possible.

Their sailing trip was through TAO Expeditions, a company in the Philippines that operates by working with local communities and individuals to offer their travel adventures.

"TAO has really helped reintroduce traditional culture into some of the more remote communities in the Palawan Islands," Waite said.

Wherever they go, they do everything possible to make sure they're contributing to the local economy of the place they visit through the food they eat, their accommodations, and transportation.

"In terms of this kind of adventure travel, the way that we are able to travel so often and be responsible while doing it is doing



things like traveling light, staying in hostels, minimize tourist attractions. We find there's so much value in doing local things while traveling," Waite said.

They founded The Golden Age of

Adventure, an experience planning company for those 40 years or older, after retiring from their respective jobs a few years ago.

"We're back now, but we're always doing something like this. In May, we have a group

going to the Grand Canyon hiking from rim to rim," Waite said.

They had already taken three groups to the Dominican Republic in 2023 for hosting retreats, "to help people figure out what their adventure is going to be," Waite said.

"We're also planning on taking trips to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and by the end of the year, we plan to take a group to climb Kilimanjaro in Africa."

More information on Waite and Hagarty's experience planning company can be found here: [goldenageofadventure.com/about-us](https://goldenageofadventure.com/about-us).

## Upcoming for Telling Our Stories

Organized by the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, the speaker series has six upcoming presentations for 2024.

On Jan. 10, the Honourable Maryam Monsef will speak about her life before, during, and after her political career.

On Feb. 14, David Newland will perform stories and songs in a presentation called *In Search of Lost Trees*.

On March 13, Charlie Angus will discuss his book, *Cobalt*.

On April 10, local artists Ruth Walker, Sandi Luck, Wendy Wood, and Nadine Pape will share their artist residency experience on Halls Island.

On May 8, folk singer Ian Tamblyn will share adventure stories and songs.

To conclude this year's series, Ted Barris will be back on June 12 to speak about his new book, *Fire Canoe*.

All presentations are from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the HHOA Fish Hatchery in Haliburton. Admission is \$15.

## MORE THAN JUST A DANCE STUDIO

*Skyline offers something for everyone*

### Winter Camp

**January 3rd-5th**

Your child will enjoy a creative, activity-filled day with games, crafts, active play and so much more! The cost is \$135 for all 3 days (8:30am-4:30pm).

We are accepting from ages 4 to 12 years old (separate age groupings).

**OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

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**DANCE**

*of course!*

*Skyline Dance*  
STUDIO

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# Cultural Centre ready for 2024



The Minden Hills Cultural Centre has a variety of activities available for all ages in 2024, with something available for all interests across the board. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

by EMILY STONEHOUSE  
Editor

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre (MHCC) has been navigating the realities of this post-COVID world for the past few seasons, and with a new year on the horizon, they're ready for a fresh start. "We've got some great programming coming up," said Shannon Kelly, the manager of cultural services at the facility, during the MHCC Foundation meeting on Dec. 13. During the meeting, Kelly provided an overview of events and experiences slated for the 2024 season, with some programs tied to the past such as the PA Day movies, and other ones being brand new, like the celebration of the Chinese New Year.

The first area of focus for the Cultural Centre staff is on the beginning of the year, with events between January and March – that time of year when it becomes trickier to stay busy while waiting for the snow to melt.

It was noted that the Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place are closed for the season. The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is open and displaying a collection of work by world-renowned artist Andre Lapine to kick off 2024.

The Cultural Centre and the Gallery are open Tuesday to Saturday between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., except the week of Dec. 25, 2023. Admission is by donation.

The following are a smattering of offerings the MHCC have on the roster for the winter season. A full list of events can be found at [www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca).

**PA Day Movies** – Feb. 2 and March 1, both Fridays, 1 to 3 p.m.  
Free family-friendly movie in the Welch Room. No registration required. A snack will be provided.

**Chinese New Year Drop-in Crafts** – Feb. 10, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
The MHCC will be teaching traditional Chinese calligraphy and papercutting crafts on the first day of Chinese New Year. All ages are welcome. Admission by donation.

**The Road Taken Documentary Screening Event** – Feb. 15, 5 to 7 p.m.  
A free documentary screening to recognize Black History Month. This 1996 film takes a nostalgic ride through history to present the experiences of Black sleeping-car porters who worked on Canada's railways from the early 1900s through the 1960s. The screening takes place in the Welch Room.

**Under the Willow Documentary Screening Event** – Mar. 7, 5 to 7 p.m.  
A free documentary screening to recognize International Women's Day on March 8. The film tells the stories of Chinese women overcoming challenges to settle in Canada. The screening takes place in the Welch Room.

**March Break Drop-in Programs** – Mar. 11 to 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The March Break Drop-in programs will be held at Nature's Place every weekday during March Break. No pre-registration is required. Admission is by donation. Suitable for children ages 5 to 12. Visitors are free to browse and play with the interactives at Nature's Place. More specific information on the activities will follow in the new year.

*Sudoku brought to you by*



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3				8				5
7	5							2
8						9		
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		7	4				8	
				3	9	4		1
9					1			2
	1	5			4			

Level: Advanced

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

*Answers on page 18*



Home Game



VS



Friday, Dec. 29 7 p.m.

Upcoming Home Games



Sunday, Dec. 31  
2 p.m.



Saturday, Jan. 6  
4 p.m.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

For more information please visit our website

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HHSS SPORTS

Volleyball victories

The teams fought hard, with two wins and two ties for the Red Hawks by the end of the day. /TIM YANO special to the Times



The teams fought hard, with two wins and two ties for the Red Hawks by the end of the day.



Basketball battles

The Red Hawks battled I.E. Weldon on Dec. 14 in Haliburton. Despite a tough fight, the Hawks lost to Weldon 57-48. /TIM YANO Special to the Times



# Flannel Frolic



**It's a dinner, dance, concert ...a party!**

A fundraiser for the Highlands Summer Festival  
Featuring  
**Adverse Conditions**

## Haliburton Legion Friday January 19, 2024

\$90/couple or \$50 single      Doors open at 5:30  
Auction items are listed on HSF website

Tickets / information:  
705-457-9933 or [www.highlandssummerfestival.ca](http://www.highlandssummerfestival.ca)

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movies

MOVIE  
NIGHTS

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movies

**Thursday, Jan. 11, What's Love Got To Do With It?**  
RomCom: How do you find lasting love in today's world?

**\$10 cash only**  
4:15 and 7:15 pm Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

705-457-0428    [www.ThoseOtherMovies.com](http://www.ThoseOtherMovies.com)





# Beyond Islands of Green - wildlife corridors

by RICK WHITTEKER  
Special to the Times

Finding ways to help our local wildlife to survive and thrive during times of climate change and development pressure is tricky business. Wildlife habitat needs vary from large tracks of intact forest to a mix of habitat types to simply needing a rotting log with surrounding leaf litter.

A viable wildlife corridor, protection of species at risk and climate change mitigation are the three main goals of the Highlands Corridor. A project of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT), resting on the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, the Highlands Corridor encompasses 100,000 hectares with about 60,000 hectares being unceded Crown land and the remaining 40,000 hectares comprising private land, municipal land and HHLT properties. This area encompasses a diversity of habitats including lakes, forests, wetlands, and rocky barrens.

The HHLT started the Partners in Conservation program, collaborating with landowners committed to landscape conservation with properties that strategically bridge gaps between fragmented Crown land. HHLT assists landowners in developing management plans with objectives of enhancing environmental protection and wildlife habitat.

The Partners in Conservation program has allowed the HHLT to emphasize to private landowners the importance of understanding how their property fits into the broader landscape. Islands of good habitat often cannot service the full seasonal needs of wildlife. Connectivity between natural landscapes



The Whip-poor-will is nocturnal and rests quietly in forest cover during the day. /Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

provides an important ecological function, allowing animals to meet all their habitat needs within a suitable arrangement of space, including suitable hibernation and breeding sites while minimizing exposure to predators and human hazards.

Wildlife corridors are very important as animals need to move for a variety of reasons. As the season changes, movement to more suitable habitat may be necessary. For example, Blanding's Turtles use wetland complexes as movement corridors, however, female turtles can travel up to two kilometers into surrounding upland forest areas to find appropriate nesting sites.

Species at Risk in Ontario lists the status of the Blanding's Turtle as threatened. Threats to this population include habitat loss or fragmentation, motor vehicle collisions, egg predation from raccoons and foxes and illegal collection for the pet trade. Blanding's Turtles are also late breeders, not entering breeding age until they are 14 to 20 years old. Adult mortality is very detrimental to their population as the odds of even reaching breeding age is low. Awareness of this

threatened species habitat needs can help property owners adjacent to wetlands to support populations of the Blanding's Turtles.

Similarly, some forest salamanders spend the summer and winter in forests but in the spring, they breed and lay their eggs in ponds, marshes, or temporary pools that may not be available on the landowner's property. Larvae mature in an aquatic environment, emerge as adults, and then move back to the forest to find suitable habitat under the leaf litter, rocks, and logs.

Larger mammals like moose and deer also move seasonally. They may find good spring and summer browsing habitat in one area but must move to a different location to meet their winter needs. For example, White-tailed Deer will look for conifer thickets in the winter, gaining a thermal benefit from congregating under the canopy of dense, snow-covered trees like Eastern Hemlock.

Called deer yards, they often have less snow cover, giving deer an advantage over winter predators. Deep snow inhibits the deer's best predator defense- speed. However, over browsing of these yarding

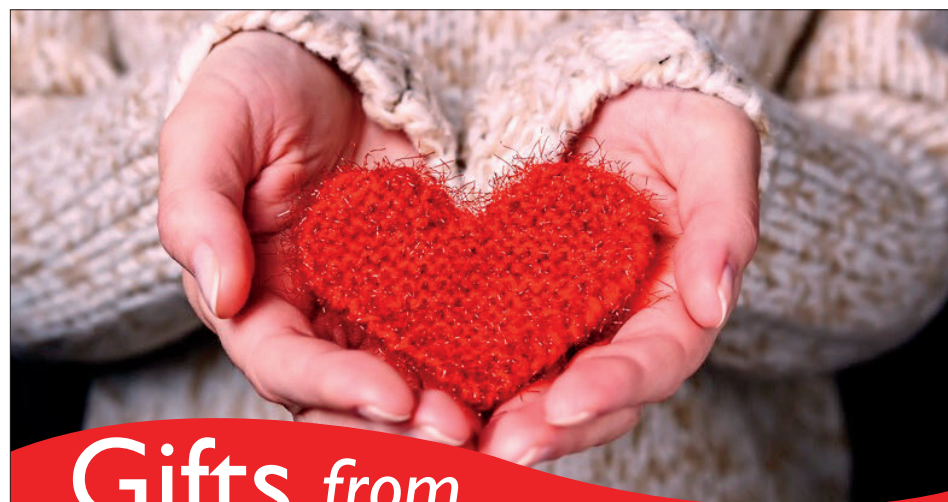
areas is common, so proximity to deciduous browse is also important.

Also needing a variety of habitats to survive is the Whip-poor-will. This nocturnal bird rests motionless, wonderfully camouflaged while resting during the day in the recesses of a forest. At night they hunt for moths and other insects in open areas so if you see, after dark, a mid sized bird flying erratically in open meadows and rocky barrens, it is likely a Whip-poor-will.

You will likely hear them as they are twilight and beyond calling champions! Sounding like its name, the Whip-poor-will's call can be insistent from dusk to dawn! Like most nocturnal creatures, the Whip-poor-will has a specialized reflective membrane in their eyes called tapetum lucidum that improves their vision in low-light conditions. Interestingly, their eyes reflect a red glow if caught in the beam of a flashlight.

Further to the importance of landscape connectivity, the fledglings and the immature of many species must disperse from their place of birth to establish territories of their own. For populations to grow, offspring must be able to move to suitable habitats to ensure genetic diversity. Wildlife corridors and connected natural areas will help facilitate this movement without the dangers of road crossings and other human hazards.

In this era of climate change and development pressures, connectivity between natural areas will be vital, giving wildlife a chance to move and adapt to the stressors of change. Private landowners have a large role to play in maintaining the natural habitat necessary to support wildlife diversity in Haliburton County and beyond.



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**Play on Tuesday, January 2**

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approximately 42 local not-for-profits

*Canoe FM - Working Toward a Stronger Community*

**www.canoeFM.com**

#M819795





## Murder and mayhem

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School drama club hosted an evening of murder mystery dinner theatre this past weekend, where guests were treated to a night of entertainment and intrigue. The drama club performed the famed whodunit murder mystery *Clue* at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion Theatre following four-course meal. The drama club performed three shows over the weekend. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Times*



# THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

### Looking for an opportunity to serve your community or know someone who is?

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking residents to serve on the Committee of Adjustment for the 2024-2026 term.

Members will receive \$100.00 for each regular meeting attended, plus an additional \$10.00 per application, and are reimbursed for mileage associated with conducting site visits. Meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the last Monday of each month.

### THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

The Committee of Adjustment considers applications for minor variances from the Township's Zoning By-law as set out in the Planning Act. A minor variance may allow property owners to use their land in a way which does not comply exactly with the requirements of the Zoning By-Law.

The Committee of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body made up of citizen representatives appointed by Council. Decisions made by the Committee of Adjustment may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and a cover letter to:

Clerk's Department  
Committee of Adjustment Member  
Township of Minden Hills  
P.O. Box 359 - 7 Milne Street  
Minden, ON., K0M 2K0  
or by e-mail to:  
vbull@mindenhills.ca

Applications must be received by **Wednesday, January 3, 2024.**

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about the collection and use of this information should be directed to the Clerk, Vicki Bull, Township of Minden Hills, 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0 (705) 286-1260 ext. 515.

# THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

- 1. File No. PLSRA2022067:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of South Lake, lying in front of 1020 Capricorn Court located within Lot 4, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon
- 2. File No. PLSRA2022080:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of South Lake, lying in front of 1161 Kendrick Creek Lane located within Lot 2, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Snowdon
- 3. File No. PLSRA2022083:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1058 Voyager Drive located within Lot 26, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Minden
- 4. File No. PLSRA2023038:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Pigeon Lake, lying in front of 3420 Deep Bay Road located within Lot 11, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

**AND TAKE NOTICE** should you wish to provide comments with respect to any of the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than January 12, 2024.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

**AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)  
Manager of Planning, Township of Minden Hills  
705-286-1260 Ext. 506  
adougherty@mindenhills.ca



# Telling our stories in January

The January Speakers Series is delighted to present the Honourable Maryam Monsef, former Peterborough Liberal MP and Cabinet Minister and now CEO and Founder of ONWARD. She will be discussing her life before, during and after her political career. This journey has taken Ms. Monsef from her arrival in Canada in 1996 as an Afghan refugee to community leader and builder to a significant role in our federal government to a successful business career. Her talk is entitled *Strong into the Future.... A Story of Self-Discovery*

and *Recovery* and Ms. Monsef will present it on Wednesday, January 10th.

The Speakers Series happens on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery. Admission is \$15/person payable (cash) at the door. A portion of the ticket sales goes to a charity or local non-profit organization.

Submitted

## Holiday Recycling

Please Rinse out Containers

### Containers Recycling



Aluminum foil & Trays



Plastic bottles



Plastic containers



Metal cans

### Paper Recycling



Paper gift tags & bags



Paper gift wrap



Cardboard rolls



Christmas cards & envelopes



Cardboard boxes (flattened)

### Garbage



Metallic or foil wrapping paper



Ribbons, tinsel, bows & tape



Broken ornaments



Bubble wrap & Styrofoam packaging



Plastic toy packaging

### Minden Waste Disposal Site Holiday Hours

**Christmas Day - December 25, 2023**

All Waste Disposal Sites Closed

**Boxing Day - December 26, 2023**

All Waste Disposal Sites operate on regular winter hours.

**New Year's Day - January 1, 2024**

All Waste Disposal Sites Closed

**New Waste Disposal Site Hours start January 1, 2024**



# Donations matched for YWCA

By supporting the YWCA, community members can help shine a light in the darkness for those who need it most.

All donations made to the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton until December 31st will be matched up to \$48,500, thanks to the generosity of a group of community sponsors.

Gender-based violence has increased significantly in Canada since 2020. Women and gender-diverse people are experiencing severe and frequent violence and abuse at the hands of intimate partners and loved ones. The need for shelter and safety from violence has never been higher.

This holiday season, **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT** for local women and children! Donations made until midnight on December 31st, 2023 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$48,500, thanks to our generous matching sponsors. Donations can be made online at [ywcahaliburton.org](http://ywcahaliburton.org), by mail to our address above, or by phone at 705-743-3526.

Community donations will support YWCA Peterborough Haliburton's lifesaving programs and safe spaces, including the Women's Centre in Minden and the Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace (HERS), Clinical Therapy program, Transitional Housing and Outreach program, Family Court Support program, and basic necessities and food for women and children staying in safe spaces.

Supporters are encouraged to register as holiday sponsors or donate gift cards to provide extra support for local women, children, and gender-diverse people. More information is available at [ywcahaliburton.org](http://ywcahaliburton.org).

Submitted

Tammy Nash of Algonquin Highlands snapped this photo of a pine marten, whom she has affectionally called "Dean" in her front yard. /Photo submitted

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

3	9	6	2	8	7	1	4	5
7	5	1	9	4	6	3	2	8
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4	8	9	5	6	2	7	1	3
1	2	7	4	9	3	5	8	6
2	7	8	6	3	9	4	5	1
9	3	4	8	5	1	6	7	2
6	1	5	7	2	4	8	3	9



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Cozy for Christmas

On Monday, Dec. 18, The South Lake Pyjama Project, in partnership with St. Paul’s Anglican Church, donated a total of 186 pairs of brand-new pyjamas to the Minden Food Bank, Point in Time, the Urgent Care Clinic, YWCA’s women’s shelter, Haliburton Highlands Health Services and St. Paul’s. “We are so grateful to everyone who has donated and the new connections we have made along the way,” Webster said. “Everyone deserves a clean and cozy pair of pyjamas.” The South Lake Pyjama Project will continue to receive donations year-round and plans to make their next drop-offs during Easter and Thanksgiving in the upcoming year. Pictured, Minden Food Bank manager Jean Munroe, receives a donation of pyjamas from Joy Webster, left, organizer of The South Lake Pyjama Project and Gail Nicholson, right, warden of St. Paul’s Anglican Church. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

HIGHLANDS  
OPERA  
STUDIO

VALERIE KUINKA  
General &  
Co-Artistic Director

RICHARD MARGISON  
Co-Artistic Director

MISHAABOOZ’S REALM

August 15th, 17th | 7:30pm | NLPAP

POSTPONED  
FROM 2023

Experience this powerful & moving work combining opera with traditional Indigenous singers and instrumentalists, created for HOS by Cree First Nation composer/creator, Andrew Balfour. Mishabooz’s Realm takes us on a journey from an Indigenous perspective through Creation, Colonization, and ultimately Hope for the Future.

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L’ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l’Ontario

Ontario

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE  
IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA)

August 22nd, 24th, 26th | 7:30pm | NLPAP

August 25th | 2:00 pm | NLPAP, Haliburton

From Bugs Bunny cartoons to movie soundtracks, ‘The Barber of Seville’ by Rossini is one of the most popular and recognizable Italian comic operas. Join us for the hilarious antics as Figaro helps Almaviva outwit the doddering and conniving Bartolo for the hand of the beautiful Rosina. Fun for all ages! (In Italian with English Surtitles)

CONCERTS

OPERA TO BROADWAY

August 1st | 7:30pm

POP GOES THE OPERA

August 7th | 7:30pm

CELEBRATIONS!

August 10th | 7:30pm

HOMEcoming:  
HOS ALUMNI CONCERT

August 19th | 7:30pm

All Concerts: St. George’s Anglican Church

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

WHY CHOOSE OPERA?

July 29th | 7:30pm

Abbey Gardens Performance Tent

MUSIC ON THE WATER

August 3rd | 7:30pm

Launch your boat on a lake TBD in Haliburton County for a beach concert of opera, musical theatre, and pop! Want it to be your lake? CONTACT US! info@highlandsoperastudio.com

CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE

August 14th | 7:30-8:45pm

St. George’s Anglican

POP-UP PERFORMANCE TBA

August 16th | 7:30pm

Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton Save the date and keep your mind open!



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ATTEND ALL 17 EVENTS OR CHOOSE AS MANY AS YOU LIKE + INVITATION(S) TO EXCLUSIVE VIP EVENT(S)  
REGULAR SEASON PASS (VALUED @\$185) NOW ONLY \$95  
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Minden Times

Classifieds

Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Each Monday

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**Greenworks Snowblower** 24 inch battery-powered, all Manuals, 3 60v batteries and charger. Purchased in January 2023 for \$2,260. Asking \$950 Call **705-286-5164**

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**December 14, 2023**

**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton**

**Requires an**

**Engineering Technologist - Operations**

Reporting to the Deputy Director of Public Works, the Engineering Technologist – Operations has primary responsibility for traffic analysis and road signage. This position is responsible for undertaking research and providing field reports to support traffic, road and property analyses.

Preferred candidates will have post-secondary education in civil engineering or land development and 2 years of experience in road construction and maintenance, preferably in a municipal environment. Candidates should have knowledge of relevant legislation. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required to work effectively with staff, contractors and the public. Candidates should be proficient in Civil 3D-AUTOCAD, Arc Map, Microsoft Office Suite, Total Station survey, and GPS technology. A valid G drivers licence is required.

For complete responsibilities and requirements of the position please see the attached job description.

The hourly rate for this full time CUPE Local 1960 position is \$31.49.

Please submit a detailed resume indicating your skills and experience no later than **January 08 at 4:30pm**. Please send your resume to:

Lauren Bacik-Zanetti, Human Resources Manager  
[lbacik-zanetti@haliburtoncounty.ca](mailto:lbacik-zanetti@haliburtoncounty.ca)

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process. For accommodation options and to ensure full and equal access during the recruitment and selection process, contact Human Resources.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton**

**Requires a**

**Full-time Finance Assistant**

The County of Haliburton is currently accepting applications for a full time permanent Finance Assistant.

The successful candidate must have progressive municipal and accounting experience, knowledge of standard accounting practices and be highly proficient with computer software including Microsoft Office applications. They must be results oriented, have the ability to multi task and deal with staff and the public in a professional manner while working in a fast paced and demanding environment.

A college diploma program in Finance, Business Administration, Accounting or related field is required.

The current hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$30.58

Accounts payable and receivable are the core duties of this position. A full detailed job description is included with this posting.

Interested candidates should submit a detailed resume indicating your skills and experience no later than **Monday, January 08, 2024 at 4pm**. Please send your resume to:

[lbacik-zanetti@haliburtoncounty.ca](mailto:lbacik-zanetti@haliburtoncounty.ca)  
Lauren Bacik-Zanetti, Human Resources Manager

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Minden Times

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## 560 PERSONALS



*I wish everyone  
a very Merry  
Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!*

*Love from Simone*



## 435 VOLUNTEERS

The Minden Community Food Centre, your local charity that works to reduce food insecurity in the surrounding areas, is seeking new volunteers to join our Board of Directors. We are looking for a compassionate person with strong communications skills and a supportive team player to help us achieve our mandate to provide supplemental, healthy foods for our clients living in Minden Hills. If you have skills, time, and experience in any of the following management disciplines: general administration, financial, asset campaign, or social media, plus the desire to help, we would like to hear from you by January 5 2024. Please contact us by e-mail and tell us about your interests in food insecurities, program ideas to support our mandate, your background, skill set, and experience. Send your e-mail to [mcfc.BoardMembers@gmail.com](mailto:mcfc.BoardMembers@gmail.com).

## 570 NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on behalf of Felice Mueller application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for an Act to revive Qui Vive Island Club Inc. the Qui Vive Island Club Inc. Act 2023. The application may be considered by the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions, for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2. Dated at Portland, Oregon, USA, this 23rd day of November, 2023. FELICE MUELLER

## 600 FUNERAL SERVICES



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## 660 CARD OF THANKS

*Thank you!*



The family of MARY STIVER would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to wish MARY a happy 90th birthday. Mary could not believe how many people came to visit with her, she felt so special. (over 175 people came through on Saturday to see her) Mary is a very humble person and was so moved that she has touched the lives of so many people in this community both locally and as cottagers. To the extended family and friends that drove so far to visit with her, THANK YOU. Special recognition and appreciation to: Lynn Nelson for doing Mary's hair that day. She looked beautiful and she felt beautiful. Steven Nipper Stevens ~ The food was amazing. Jessica Rider ~ Thanks so much for tending the bar. Independent Grocers ~ The cake was perfect.

Stanhope Fire Department for the special presentation. It meant so much to Mary. 90 Years is a landmark year and we were so pleased to receive greetings from PM Trudeau, Governor General Mary Simon and Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielson.

Also want to thank those who sent birthday wishes via email and text messages. All have been printed off and shared with her.

*Advice on a long healthy life from Mary ~ Love nature, enjoy wine, and go fishing every chance you get.*

*Advice from the children of 90 year old parents ~*

*Love them every day ~ you are lucky to still have them.*

Thanks again.

Mary's children

Christine, Kathy and Dan



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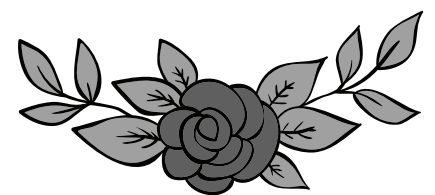
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# The Minden Times

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## LOOK INSIDE



### Warm Greetings

Our annual supplement brings Christmas cheer and good wishes to you from local businesses, as well as children's stories

See special section



### Changing times

Lois Warburton to retire after 30 years of growth, change in county administration

See page 14

### In Quotes

"If it comes to a vote on a tender, my vote will be no."  
**Clayton Cameron is one of three councillors who opposes a new MH office**  
 See page 5

## Minden Hills flips switch on evening meetings

by MATTHEW WALLS  
*Times staff*

In a lengthy debate that led to accusations of dirty politics but finally ended in compromise, Minden Hills Township's new council decided to move one of its two monthly meetings to the evening.

Newly elected councillor Clayton Cameron asked council to do "anything it can" to help accommodate his work schedule. Cameron is the director of Public Works for the township of Severn.

During the election, Cameron said he would not be able to make all the meetings if council did not change its meetings from the day-time to the evening.

Moving to evening meetings would not be a big change, he said then, because the public would be better served and the change wouldn't cost the township anything. Even though township staff would be required to work the evenings, Cameron said the staff are paid on a salary and not wages, and therefore wouldn't be paid extra.

However, Cameron's optimism seemed greatly misplaced on

see COMPROMISE page 4



Sheryl Loucks/TIMES

**Presents:** Kelsey Turner was one of the excited youngsters who received a present from Santa at Stanhope's Christmas party on Saturday

## Gallery given suitcase full of treasures

by MATTHEW WALLS  
*Times staff*

In the refined world of art collecting, where a great deal of time is spent in the sedate, cerebral processes of appraisal and appreciation, the sudden appearance of a rare, unknown collection of art comes like a shot of adrenalin, delivered by some beneficent deity and sending art lovers into

### Andre Lapine drawings, artifacts join collection of artist's paintings

fits of rapture.

By its appearance, the well-travelled burgundy suitcase of the painter André Lapine, the edges of its cardboard frame worn but still solid, doesn't promise so

much.

For the past 50 years, however, that suitcase held within it an assortment of sketches, photographs and documents dating from the 1920s, 30s and 40s that

are together worth about half the value of the largest collection of Lapine's works, 50 paintings proudly owned by Minden's Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

This most recent addition to the gallery alone would elevate it into a higher level in the art world, said gallery administrator Laurie Carmount: "It is a hugely

see COMPROMISE page 4

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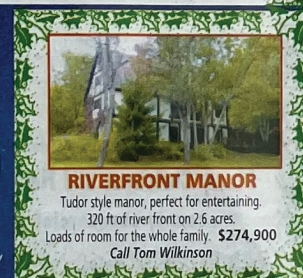
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# 2024 Season Passes Now Available

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July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>



Sponsored by 

Six awkward spelling champions learn that winning (and losing) isn't everything in this delightful musical. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescenters vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** is a delightful hive of comedic and musical genius.

Opens July 2 through to July 11 for nine performances, including two matinees.

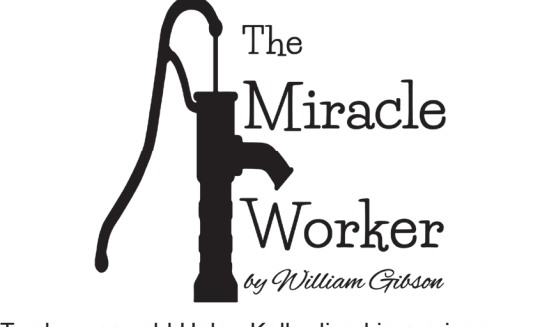
July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>



Sarah, a turkey farmer, has split up with her husband and moved in with her mom, Gail, a beekeeper. Add in Earl, the flirty neighbour, and Ben, an eager young graduate student, and you have the perfect breeding ground for unlikely attractions. Set in adjoining bedrooms, **The Birds and the Bees** is a Canadian comedy about love, lust, beekeeping, and the artificial insemination of turkeys.

Six performances from July 28 to August 2.  
*(The Birds & The Bees contains mature content and discussions of sex.)*

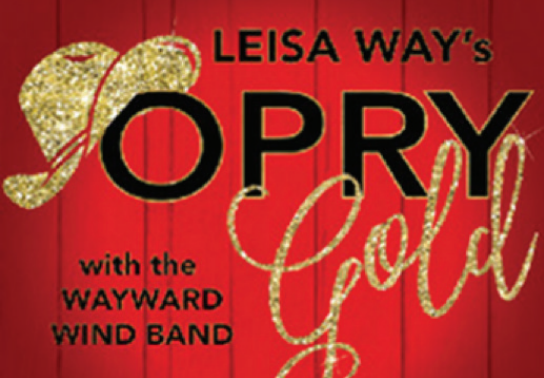
July 15<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>



Twelve-year-old Helen Keller lived in a prison of silence and darkness. Deaf, blind, and mute from an illness as a baby, with no way to express herself or comprehend those around her, she flew into primal rages against anyone who tried to help her, fighting tooth and nail with a strength born of furious desperation.

Then Annie Sullivan came. Half-blind herself, but possessing an almost fanatical determination, she would begin a frightening and incredibly moving struggle to tame the wild girl no one could reach...Opens July 15 for eight performances including three matinees.

August 4<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>



Back by popular demand, Highland Summer Festival presents Leisa Way and her Wayward Wind Band with another outstanding concert, **Opry Gold**. To share the Grand Ol' Opry's history is to share the story of Country Music.

Leisa Way and her phenomenally talented band have brought audiences many great shows, and this latest concert raises the roof with the hottest country songs from the last few decades. Sing-a-long to Johnny Cash, Shania Twain, Vince Gill, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Lady Antebellum, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Charlie Daniels, Zac Brown Band, Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Garth Brooks, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Glen Campbell, Taylor Swift, Darius Rucker, Kenny Chesney, Gretchen Wilson, George Strait, Roger Miller, Flatt & Scruggs, Ricky Scaggs, Hank Snow, Roy Acuff, Alan Jackson, and more!

Five performances starting August 4 to August 8.

July 24<sup>th</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup>



Highlands Summer Festival is delighted to present **The Good Lovelies**, a Canadian folk/country harmony trio, consisting of Caroline Brooks, Kerri Ough and Sue Passmore. At their core they can be described as a country/folk trio, with tinges of pop, roots, jazz and sometimes hip-hop mixed in.

The group's three members, Brooks from Whitby, Ough from Port Hope and Passmore from Cobourg, were all performing as solo artists in the Toronto area when they came together in 2006 to perform at a Christmas concert at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. The three subsequently decided to continue working together, releasing their debut EP, Oh My, in 2007. Since then, they have released nine LPs including the latest We Will Never Be The Same in 2023. In 2018, they performed at Massey Hall in Toronto and were nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award. The trio is on stage for three performances, July 24, 25 and a matinee 26.



**Purchase your Season Passes online at:**  
[highlandsummerfestival.on.ca](http://highlandsummerfestival.on.ca)

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